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Food had been the most important crop for the early settlers, and as they established gardens and cultivated fields they also introduced stock raising into the valley. Because of the heavy snows that fell during the winters, there were numerous mountain streams and springs and an abundance of meadow-lands. Some wondered if the summer season would be long enough to make stock raising a sound economic possibility, but others reasoned that they could never know until they tried it, so several people brought small flocks of sheep and cattle into the valley in 1860.

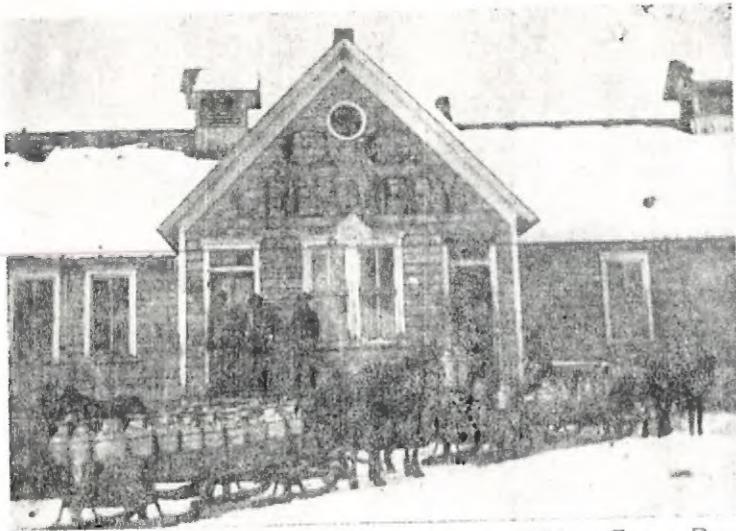
President Brigham Young called John M. Murdoch, a shepherd from Scotland and a convert to the Church, to supervise a herd of sheep for the Church. However, by the time he arrived in Utah the sheep had been sold, so Mr. Murdoch came to Heber in 1860 and pioneered co-operative herding. Those who had sheep banded them together in the co-op herd and Mr. Murdoch took charge of them on range-lands in the summer and on southern ranches in the winter. The venture proved very successful, and families who before had been unable to care for sheep now found it possible to own a herd. As people developed their own individual herds however, the co-op idea soon dwindled. Some of the first sheep owners were the Jacob brothers, Lindsay brothers, Murdochs, Clydes, Clotworthy, Coleman, Austin, Smith, Jessop Thomas and the Fitzgeralds.

The sheep industry grew substantially over the years, and at one time there were more milk fed lambs shipped out of Heber than from any other point in the United States.

The cattle industry grew also, supplying at first the needs of those in the valley and eventually providing beef and other meat products for shipment to Denver and many eastern cities. Some of the major owners of cattle included A. M. Murdoch, L. W. Clyde, John Carroll, William Averett and sons, John Witt and sons, the Carlises, Giles, Cummings and Abram Hatch and Sons.

DAIRYING

Dairying in the valley began with individuals who owned one or two cows and would sell their surplus milk or dairy products to neighbors. Later, creameries were established to collect the milk and distribute it on a large scale. Three such creameries have existed in Heber. One,



The Charleston Co-Operative Creamery begun in 1894 by George Daybell and later expanded to this building by Mr. Daybell and Joseph R. Murdock.

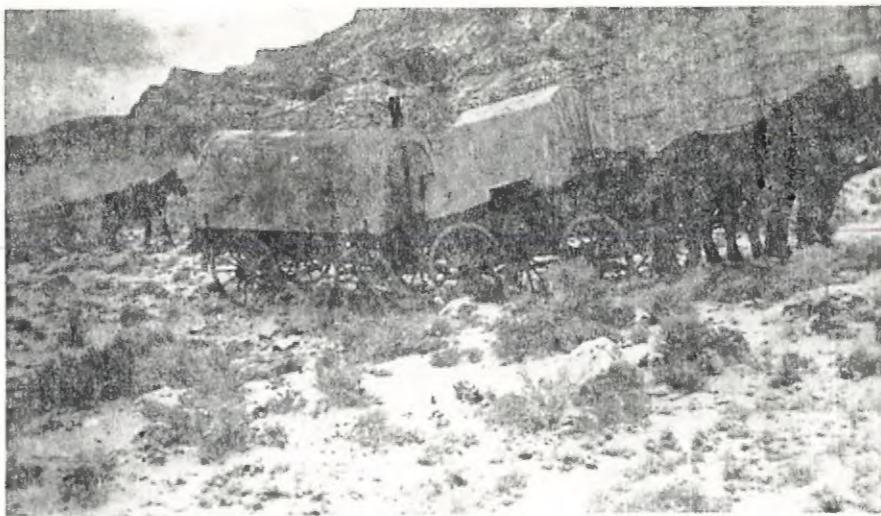
they had seven milk wagons bringing in milk from local farms. They processed about 21,000 gallons of milk a day, and sold their butter, cheese and other milk products as far west as California and into the eastern markets.

Nymphas C. Murdock's son, Joseph, built a saw mill on the Provo River just north of Charleston, east of the Provo River bridge and west of the George Edwards home. A pond was also built in which water was stored over-night to provide a sufficient supply for the following day's operation. Logs were hauled from all parts of the valley to the saw mill which operated successfully for many years.

Through the years there have been many other businesses in Charleston. Emil Kohler ran a meat market, while Phoebe North Daybell had a millinery shop. Sarah Ritchie Wright had a fine dressmaking parlor, while Ernest Bates was proprietor of a popular ice cream and confectionary parlor. One of the state's leading mid-wives, Mrs. Etta Wagstaff, also practiced in Charleston.

Charleston's main industrial efforts, however, have centered around agriculture. Thousands of acres of meadow lands have supported large herds of dairy cattle, flocks of blooded sheep and hundreds of head of fine beef cattle.

From the farms near Charleston have annually come some 40,000 bushels of grain and hundreds of tons of hay. Bishop John M. Ritchie and some associates purchased and imported a herd of some 300 head of pure-bred Hereford cattle, and later Hyrum, Moroni and Fred Winter-ton and John C. Whiting imported fine breeding stock to make Charle-



An early sheep camp on the range in the mountains near Charleston.

ton the Hereford headquarters of Utah. John M. Ritchie and the Allen brothers were also breeders of fine Percheron horses.

The railroad came to Charleston in 1899, and the first train arrived Sept. 6 at 2 p.m. The train carried six carloads of people from Provo who had been given free rides as the first passengers traveling



Haying time on the Wright farm in Charleston. Pictured here are William Stacy Wright, William T. Wright, Ethel, Elsie and Sarah Wright.

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